

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, September 19, 2003

MPDC MOBILIZES FOR HURRICANE ISABEL

As with other major events in the District, the MPDC was mobilized this week to address a range of public safety issues associated with Hurricane Isabel. Officers' leave was canceled through the weekend, and many shifts were held over to provide additional officers on the street. They concentrated on securing areas with downed power lines and providing neighborhood patrols, traffic management and other responsibilities. To enhance visibility, all MPDC members were required to work in uniform. Additional staff were also assigned to the Public Safety Communications Center to answer calls to 9-1-1 and 3-1-1. Indications are that the call volume to the PSCC during Isabel was pretty typical, with more weather-related calls offset by a decrease in calls for crime-related issues. To provide essential command and control of its operations, the Department activated its Joint Operations Command Center, including the network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. The CCTV cameras were expected to be deactivated over the weekend.

- ① For more information about the MPDC's CCTV network, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtml>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF ISABEL

While tropical storm Isabel has passed by the region, residents are reminded to follow some common-sense precautions that will enhance public safety and support ongoing clean-up efforts. First and foremost, many traffic signals in the District are without power, and the MPDC does not have enough officers to provide traffic control at all intersections. It is essential that motorists treat these intersections as four-way stops. Please reduce your speed as you approach these intersections. Other traffic reminders: don't drive through standing water, over downed power lines or over branches or other debris in the roadway—even seemingly small debris can damage vehicles. Residents are encouraged to call 9-1-1 for police, fire or medical emergencies, and 3-1-1 for police non-emergencies. However, residents should call the Mayor's Call Center – 727-1000 – for questions about the storm and cleanup (for example, questions about shelters, dry ice, fallen trees that don't present a public safety hazard, etc.). Pepco has two numbers for power-related questions: for downed wires, call (202) 872-3432; for power outages, call 1-877-PEPCO-62. In the interest of fire safety, residents without power are reminded to use flashlights—not candles—for illumination.

- ① DC is looking for volunteers to help senior citizens and homebound residents cope with the storm, and assist in medical transports, etc. If you would like to volunteer, please call (202) 727-1000.

STREET CLOSURES

While some weekend events (including Bike DC) have been canceled or postponed, there are some scheduled street closings, including for Sunday's Chinese Cultural Festival and Parade in Chinatown.

- ① Get details on these and other upcoming street closures in DC at:
http://dc.gov/closures/closures_by_type.asp?type=4

MPDC WRAPS UP A SUCCESSFUL 2003 SMOOTH OPERATOR CAMPAIGN

Each summer, the MPDC joins with approximately four dozen other law enforcement agencies in the DC region in a concerted effort to crack down on speeding, red-light and stop-sign running, tailgating, unsafe lane changes and other forms of aggressive driving. Called Smooth Operator, the program combines a comprehensive media campaign about the dangers of aggressive driving with a crackdown by law enforcement officers during four separate, week-long "waves." During this year's Smooth Operator program, the MPDC issued nearly 76,000 citations, an increase of 55 percent over the 49,000 citations issued during Smooth Operator 2002. Both the Third and Fourth Districts issued nearly 3,500 citations each during Smooth Operator, and the Fifth and Sixth Districts issued more than 3,000 each. Approximately 55,000 of the citations issued were through DC's photo enforcement program, which includes both red-light and photo radar speeding tickets. Of the four waves, the MPDC issued the most Smooth Operator citations during Wave IV in August.

SUSPECT INDICTED IN AUGUST 2002 HOMICIDE

It was a crime that shocked the Takoma community: 36-year-old Katie Lynn Hill, a visitor from Seattle, was found shot to death on August 9, 2002, in the courtyard of the Takoma Educational Center at Piney Branch Road and Dahlia Street, NW. Ms. Hill had been walking from the Takoma Park Metro Station to her in-laws' residence when she was robbed and murdered. This week, the US Attorney's Office and the MPDC announced that a suspect has been indicted in this case. A federal grand jury has returned two indictments against Anthony Q. Kelly, 39, of 6666 Georgia Avenue, NW. Kelly was charged in a nine-count indictment with, among other offenses, unlawful sale of stolen firearms, unlawful transportation of firearms, unlawful possession and sale of stolen firearms, possession of firearms and ammunition by a convicted felon, and the murder and robbery of Ms. Hill. In a separate 15-count indictment, a federal grand jury also charged Kelly with 15 offenses arising out of the interstate transportation of five stolen motor vehicles. Under these federal indictments, Kelly faces life in prison without parole if found guilty of the charges at trial. In addition to the MPDC and the USAO, several other agencies, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Montgomery County Police Department, and local and federal agencies, participated in the investigation.

NEWS & NOTES

Storm-Related Cancellations. Among the activities canceled or postponed because of Hurricane Isabel are the Mayor's Latino Cultural Fair and Town Hall, originally scheduled for September 18, at Cardozo High School, and the Bike DC event, scheduled for September 21. Make-up dates for both events have not been announced.

Viewing of Recovered Stolen Property. This Saturday and Sunday, the Second District plans to hold a viewing of recovered stolen property for victims of a serial burglar earlier this year in 2D and 4D. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2307>

Overnight Photo Radar Hours. DC motorists are reminded that the MPDC is deploying photo radar speeding reduction cameras during the overnight hours. Beginning this month, this shift has been expanded to include a full, eight-hour deployment from 10 pm to 6 am, six nights a week. Details on photo radar at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm>

Drug Free Zones. Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in two police districts, with additional zones planned for next weekend. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>

① Get detailed information about Smooth Operator, including a breakdown of the 2003 results, by going to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>

① The latest data from DC's red-light camera program show a 64 percent reduction in violations at the 39 intersections with cameras. Details at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm>

① In August 2003, just over 7% of motorists in photo radar enforcement zones were speeding aggressively—down from nearly 31% at the beginning of the program. Details at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm

① Read the news release at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2315>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 9/19/03)

- 2003: 181
- 2002: 174
- % Change: +4.0%

Arrests (week ending 9/13/03)

- Total: 989
- Drugs: 151
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 24
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 36

Firearm Recoveries (as of 9/16/03)

- Total: 1,395
- September: 84

Traffic Fatalities (as of 9/19/03)

- 2003: 50
- 2002: 41
- % Change: +21.9%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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